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I. Organizational matters

1. The second regular session 2008 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA was held at the United Nations, New York, from 8 to 12 September and 19 September 2008.

2. The Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for the session (DP/2008/L.3), and approved the report of the annual session 2008 (DP/2008/37).

3. The Executive Board agreed to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2009:

First regular session 2009:	19 to 22 January 2009
Annual session 2009:	26 May to 5 June 2009 (New York)
Second regular session 2009:	8 to 11 September 2009

4. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the second regular session 2008 were included in document DP/2008/38, accessible at www.undp.org/execbrd.

UNFPA segment

II. Statement of the Executive Director and financial, budgetary and administrative matters

5. The Executive Director began her statement by underscoring that true breakthroughs required more than strategic plans; they depended on inspired collaboration and UNFPA would not have progressed in becoming a more field-focused and results-oriented organization without the strong support and guidance of the Executive Board. She updated the Board on developments, including the status of the Fund's reorganization. She highlighted the centrality of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) as the international community prepared for the upcoming high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). She stressed the need for policies that were just and equitable and placed people at the centre. She underscored that MDG 5 to improve maternal health would not be achieved unless women had universal access to reproductive health, especially with regard to family planning, skilled attendance at birth and emergency obstetric care.

6. In elaborating on the 17th International AIDS Conference held in Mexico, the Executive Director emphasized the need to intensify HIV prevention as had been done in the case of treatment, as well as strengthen the fight against stigma and discrimination. She stressed the importance of linking interventions for HIV and sexual and reproductive health. She highlighted the Fund's ongoing work in the areas of reproductive health commodity security (RHCS); the Campaign to End Fistula; South-South cooperation, and the culture-sensitive approach to programming. She noted that in 2008 the UNFPA flagship publication State of World Population would focus on culture, gender and human rights (the report would be launched on 12 November). She introduced Nobuko Horibe, the new Director of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, noting that Ms. Horibe had served at UNFPA since 1987.

7. The Executive Director reported that, as requested by the Executive Board, baseline data had been compiled and targets developed for all indicators for the UNFPA strategic plan 2008-2011. She introduced the agenda item on financial, budgetary and administrative matters and presented the proposal to revise UNFPA Financial Regulation 14.5 on ex-gratia payments as contained in the documents before the Board (DP/FPA/2008/15 and corrigendum DP/FPA/2008/15/Corr.1; and DP/FPA/2008/16). She noted that in the aftermath of the Algiers bombing in 2007 and the unprecedented threats which prevailed globally, UNFPA was proposing lifting the annual limit of $25,000 for ex-gratia payments. She added that lifting the

financial cap would allow UNFPA to be harmonized with other United Nations funds and programmes. She briefed the Board on results-based budgeting issues, including the work on cost classifications. The full text of the Executive Director's statement is available on the UNFPA website at http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd/2008/2008_second.htm.

8. The Executive Director concluded by informing the Executive Board that the Secretary-General had informed her that he had extended her tenure by two years. The announcement was greeted by warm applause from Board members.

9. Delegations congratulated the Executive Director on the extension of her tenure and expressed great appreciation and admiration for her leadership and stewardship. Numerous delegations underscored their support for UNFPA and their confidence in the Executive Director. Several delegations commended the dedication of UNFPA staff and recognized that staff in the field frequently worked in challenging conditions. Delegations stressed the key contribution of UNFPA in achieving the target of universal access to reproductive health for MDG 5. They emphasized the link between human rights, women's empowerment and development. Noting the upcoming high-level event on MDGs in the General Assembly, delegations pointed out that MDG 5 was lagging in progress and called for increased attention to reducing maternal mortality – an area where UNFPA had a central role to play.

10. Some delegations emphasized the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality and reproductive health. The work of UNFPA in sector-wide approaches and pooled funding, as well as in sexuality education for youth was commended. Delegations called for increased efforts to make reproductive health commodities more accessible and to close the gap on the unmet need for contraceptives. The importance of HIV prevention was underscored. UNFPA work in the area of sexual and gender-based violence and development of the culture-lens methodology was commended. Numerous delegations expressed support for the revision in financial regulations proposed by UNFPA with regard to ex-gratia payments.

11. The delegation of Sweden stated that it had conducted an assessment of its multilateral partners and UNFPA had scored high in effectiveness, as well as in Sweden's policy priority areas such as international development cooperation, gender equality and human rights. The delegation of Japan thanked the Executive Director for participating in the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV). The delegation of the Netherlands announced that it would more than double its contribution to the Fund's Global Programme on Reproductive Health Commodity Security and would contribute an amount of five million euros over three years to the Universal Access to Female Condoms Programme. The delegation of Australia announced that it would also increase its contribution to UNFPA.

12. The Executive Director thanked the President and Executive Board members and others for their warm congratulations on the two-year extension of her tenure. She expressed deep appreciation for their support and the tributes to her leadership and vision and thanked them for recognizing the dedication and hard work of UNFPA staff. She thanked Sweden for reporting that UNFPA had scored high in the assessment of multilateral partners. She thanked the Netherlands for doubling its support to RHCS and the additional contribution for the female condoms programme, and appreciated that the delegation had raised the important issue of sex education for young people. She thanked Australia for announcing an increase in funding to UNFPA; and Ireland for its multi-year funding agreement. She thanked Switzerland for supporting her vision of a culture-sensitive approach to programming; and Denmark for honouring her as a torchbearer in the Torch Campaign and Global Call to Action on MDG 3.

13. She reiterated the strong support of UNFPA for South-South cooperation as well as North-South cooperation. She assured the Executive Board that the Technical Division of UNFPA was working on demonstrating the interlinkages between reproductive health and poverty. She concurred that working with men and boys was essential to promote gender equality and universal access to reproductive health. She

noted that the Health 8 (H 8) group was collaborating on those critical areas of work. She appreciated the supportive comments from Board members regarding ex-gratia payments and the need to revise the pertinent financial regulations and rules. Regarding the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)-led work on United Nations system business practices, she noted that it had been completed and was being reviewed by the Secretary-General. She concluded by thanking the President and the Executive Board for supporting the mission and work of UNFPA.

14. The Executive Board adopted decision 2008/26: Revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA.

III. Country programmes and related matters

15. The Deputy Executive Director (Programme) introduced seven new draft country programme documents (DCPs) for Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Timor-Leste, Haiti and Venezuela; and the third one-year extension for the Lebanon country programme. She noted that the programmes were developed through a participatory process involving the respective Governments and other national and international stakeholders, including civil society. The directors of the Africa Regional Office, the Arab States Regional Office, the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office and the officer-in-charge (OIC) of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office provided details regarding the specific programmes from their respective regions.

16. During the discussion, programme countries thanked UNFPA for the excellent collaboration and cooperation and underscored their commitment to address such issues as maternal and child mortality; access to reproductive health services, including HIV prevention and reproductive health commodity security; and gender equality. Delegations highlighted the participatory process utilized to develop the DCPs which had involved national authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including faith-based organizations, and other development partners. They emphasized the need to increase access to reproductive health care information and services, including for marginalized groups. They encouraged focusing greater attention on maternal mortality reduction, reproductive health commodity security, family planning, emergency obstetric care, HIV prevention and addressing gender-based violence. They also noted the need to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of youth, including out-of-school youth. One delegation noted the need for age-appropriate sex education and increased involvement of parents. Referring to its country programme, one delegation welcomed the interlinking of development efforts with disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

17. Delegations appreciated the UNFPA focus on building national capacity. They inquired about partnerships in the area of gender-based violence. One delegation noted that in light of the recent coup d'état in Mauritania, UNFPA should consider revising the draft country programme to adjust it to the new circumstances. In elaborating on the current political situation the delegation of Mauritania emphasized the country's commitment to democracy and good governance. Delegations congratulated the Executive Director on her two-year extension and underscored the confidence they had in her leadership. They assured her of their full support.

18. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) and the respective regional directors and OIC appreciated the guidance provided by the Executive Board members and noted that the comments would be conveyed to the concerned countries to take into account in finalizing the country programmes. They assured the Board that UNFPA programming was undertaken in the context of national frameworks and national development planning and priorities. UNFPA-supported programmes were designed to respond to the needs of the people, including the most disadvantaged population groups. Also, there was a clear focus on national ownership and leadership, and capacity-building. The Fund's work was undertaken in close partnership with Governments, NGOs and other development partners. Strengthening of the health work force was an important area where work was being coordinated with WHO. In the areas of in-school

and out-of-school sex education, efforts were coordinated with UNICEF and other partners. Similarly, UNFPA collaborated with UNIFEM and other partners in addressing gender-based violence.

19. The Executive Board, in accordance with decision 2006/36, approved the country programmes for Benin, the Republic of the Congo, Niger, Nigeria and the Sudan that had been discussed and reviewed earlier at the Annual session 2008. The Board approved the programme extension for Lebanon. In addition, the Board took note of the DCPs for Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Timor-Leste, Haiti and Venezuela and the comments thereon, which would be conveyed to the concerned countries to take into account in finalizing the programmes. As per decision 2006/36, the finalized programmes would be posted on the website within six weeks of the discussion and would be approved at the first regular session of the Executive Board.

UNDP segment

IV. Administrator's statement

20. The Administrator extended condolences to the families of the seven United Nations staff members, including five from UNDP, who perished in a recent plane crash in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

21. The Administrator assessed the state of the global economic slowdown triggered by the financial crisis in developed countries. He observed that while most developing countries were seeing exports decline and increases in commodity prices outstripped by the tremendous increase in oil and food prices, the slowdown had been somewhat contained by robust growth in certain developing markets in Asia. Even those markets, however, were experiencing unprecedented inflationary pressures. He called for a decisive, coordinated response on the part of UNDP and the international community to stimulate the economy without exacerbating inflation.

22. Taking note of the many initiatives announced recently in response to the global economic crisis, the Administrator asserted that despite the apparent increase in aid to developing countries, funding had in fact decreased. He pointed to the failure of the most recent round of Doha trade talks as further impetus for the global community to join forces in fighting poverty and correcting asymmetries in growth and development.

23. The Administrator characterized UNDP as financially strong, noting a nominal increase in voluntary contributions (core and non-core resources) to $5.2 billion. However, he was troubled by the 1:4 ratio of regular to other resources. He encouraged Member States to increase funding levels and predictability.

24. He described measures to improve transparency in UNDP programmes and operations, including the increasing range of information available on country office websites. He spoke of efforts to broaden access to internal audits while safeguarding confidentiality and ensuring the appropriate use and disclosure of the information. The full text of the Administrator's statement is available on the Executive Board website, at www.undp.org/execbrd.

25. Delegations acknowledged the vital role of UNDP as a partner in development at the country level. Many concurred with the Administrator's analysis of the global economic situation, observing that climate change and the food and energy crises posed challenges to capacity development in many countries and heightened the urgency for UNDP interventions. They stressed the importance of national ownership and leadership as guiding principles.

26. Delegations noted that with the failure of the most recent round of Doha trade talks, UNDP leadership at the global level would become even more pivotal to the development prospects of the poorest countries. Several delegations called on donor and programme countries to renew, in concrete and measurable terms, their commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Some urged UNDP to pay special attention to the least developed countries, recommending a particular focus on Africa.

27. Many delegations welcomed the implementation phase of the strategic plan, 2008-2011. Some reiterated that poverty alleviation should remain the ultimate objective of the human development approach undertaken in all UNDP interventions.

28. Delegations applauded the progress achieved toward United Nations system-wide coherence. Some noted the positive feedback from the 'delivering as one' pilot programmes. They expressed optimism that the Accra Agenda for Action would provide further impetus for harmonization efforts. Others expressed their approval of measures to improve accountability, transparency and oversight. They praised the wide range of information available on country office websites. Several observed that financial information had been reported in a clearer and more understandable way than previously. Some stressed the importance of strengthening confidence in UNDP and other United Nations organizations.

29. Many delegations took the floor to express their condolences for those lost in the plane crash in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

V. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

30. The Associate Administrator presented an overview of financial, budgetary and administrative matters. He confirmed that total income for 2007 was $5.63 billion, an 8 per cent increase in nominal terms. He pointed out, however, that regular resources continued to be dwarfed by other resources at a ratio of 1:4, a worrying trend compromising efforts to shore up the predictability of funding for steady investment in long-term capacity development strategies. He noted that overall expenditure had remained stable at $4.77 billion, though expenditure under regular resources had risen by 7 per cent.

31. The Associate Administrator spoke of the crucial role of UNDP in the United Nations system, including managing a growing volume of resources on behalf of other United Nations organizations – $1.91 billion in 2007 (up from $1.08 billion in 2006). He described plans for UNDP to adopt, by 2010, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, which would harmonize accounting policies across the United Nations system and increase accountability and transparency. He drew attention to the four-year pilot exercise, beginning in September 2008, in which UNDP would make financial contributions to pooled funding and sector budget support at the request of the recipient country. He described measures to align cost classification and results-based budgeting among UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Children's Fund.

32. He outlined a proposal to amend the financial regulations so as to permit ex-gratia payments in excess of the current limit in certain emergency situations, and described new management responses to the human resources challenges of staff attrition and gender parity.

33. Delegations expressed concern about the persistent 1:4 ratio of regular to other resources, noting that the volatility of the current global economic climate warranted greater stability and predictability of regular resources. They expressed support for the stated corporate target of a 1:3 ratio. Many urged UNDP to reduce support expenditures and called on Member States to increase regular funding support to UNDP.

34. Turning to UNDP responses to the changing aid environment, several delegations requested further information on proposals for pooled funding and sector budget support. Some expressed support

for the UNDP proposal to join processes of sector budget support or pooled funding at the country level. Others asserted that any new aid modalities should be implemented within the framework of a General Assembly resolution and subject to the prescriptions of the triennial comprehensive policy review.

35. The Executive Board adopted decision 2008/26 on the revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA; decision 2008/27 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2007 (UNDP); decision 2008/28 on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2006-2007; and decision 2008/29 on the role of UNDP in the changing aid environment at the country level. The Board took note of the report on the information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures 2007 (DP/2008/40) and its addendum (DP/2008/40/Add.1).

VI. Evaluation

36. The Director of the UNDP Evaluation Office presented the evaluation of the third global cooperation framework. She clarified that the evaluation assessed the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the framework, noting that the evaluation concluded that while there was a need for such a framework at the global level, the contributions of the framework had not met expectations. Among the recommendations she highlighted were clearer definitions of the global role and strategic focus of future global programmes, with stronger results and accountability frameworks; improved corporate strategies and delivery mechanisms; alignment of global programme management with standard corporate practices; and strategic, sustained partnerships with United Nations organizations and other development institutions.

37. The Deputy Director of the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy provided the management response, which acknowledged the need to strengthen global programme monitoring and evaluation and better manage for results. He also described measures to align the global programme more closely with the strategic plan, 2008-2011, and with the triennial comprehensive policy review.

38. Delegations expressed support for the findings of the evaluation and encouraged UNDP to adopt its recommendations.

39. One delegation encouraged the Executive Board to take account of previous comments on the framework, as well as discussions of the strategic plan, 2008-2011, and of the most recent triennial comprehensive policy review. Another delegation encouraged UNDP to strengthen indicators, and to better distil national and regional results in the areas of HIV/AIDS and gender equality.

40. The Director presented the evaluation of the role and contribution of UNDP in managing environment and energy for sustainable development. She highlighted recommendations for UNDP to reformulate its strategic priorities in response to the national priorities of partner countries; address gaps in its responses to local environmental priorities; strengthen its policy dialogue with programme countries; mainstream environment and energy into other practice areas; and strengthen country office capacity.

41. The Associate Administrator presented the management response, in which he described measures being undertaken by UNDP to strengthen the culture of monitoring and evaluation throughout the organization.

42. Delegations welcomed the evaluation, noting that World Bank activities in the environment and energy were being evaluated concurrently. They praised the conclusions of the evaluation as the basis for a viable approach at the country level, and encouraged UNDP to improve cohesiveness in its policies and programmes and to work towards a better division of labour among United Nations organizations and the Bretton Woods institutions. They encouraged UNDP to avoid fragmentation, overlap and dilution of the development architecture.

43. Delegations urged UNDP to craft its policies to respond to national priorities rather than to the availability of funding, and to help strengthen country-level capacity to respond to climate change. They recommended that UNDP reorient its interventions to focus on adaptation to climate change rather than on mitigation.

44. Delegations observed that there was a lack of aggregate data on UNDP environmental activities. They noted that UNDP reporting tended to focus on activities rather than outcomes, and encouraged management to emphasize results in its reporting.

45. Delegations took note of the management response to weaknesses in the evaluation, notably the fact that the evaluation took into account the experiences of only eight countries and was not based entirely on empirical evidence.

46. The Director presented the evaluation of the programme of work of the Evaluation Office.

47. The Executive Board adopted decision 2008/30 on the role and contribution of UNDP in the environment and energy, and decision 2008/31 on the programme of work of the Evaluation Office.

VII. Country programmes and related matters

48. The Associate Administrator presented draft country programme documents for Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Timor-Leste and Venezuela; country programme extensions for Burundi and Lebanon; and finalized draft country programmes for Benin, Mauritius, Nigeria and Sudan. He also introduced the fourth global programme.

49. Delegations expressed support for the country programmes presented. Delegations of several countries with programmes under consideration took the floor to convey the importance of UNDP contributions to their national development plans. Many praised the consultative process that had produced the country programme documents. Others urged UNDP to tailor its contributions to focus on its comparative advantages.

50. Delegations encouraged Member States to support recovery efforts in Haiti in response to the damage suffered as a result of three successive cyclones in 2008.

51. One delegation suggested that the draft country programme document for Niger should include a more detailed analysis of the post-conflict response in that country.

52. The delegation of one of the countries with a programme under consideration took the floor to assert that its human development index ranking did not accurately reflect recent improvements in social service delivery. The delegation announced that its government had recently taken measures to improve the accuracy of its statistical data.

53. Two delegations suggested that adoption of the country programme for Mauritania be postponed in the light of the recent coup d'état in that country. The delegation of Mauritania took the floor to assure the Executive Board that the political situation in the country would not affect the progress of UNDP activities.

54. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, introduced the new Resident Representative for Myanmar, who provided an overview of the UNDP programme of assistance in that country. He thanked the international community for its support, sympathy and generous assistance in the wake of cyclone Nargis.

55. Delegations expressed support for the people of Myanmar, and commended UNDP contributions to the recovery efforts. One delegation encouraged UNDP to engage the government in policy dialogue on key development issues, including distortions of agricultural markets, access to microcredit, and an understanding of the nature, extent and causes of poverty. Another delegation stated that the report on the Human Development Initiative contained a wealth of information and requested that it be posted to the Executive Board website upon completion.

56. The Executive Board adopted decision 2008/32 on the evaluation of the third global cooperation framework and on the fourth global programme, 2009-2011. The Board approved, on a no-objection basis, the following country programmes in Africa: Benin, Mauritius and Nigeria; and the following in the Arab States: Sudan.

57. The Executive Board took note of draft country programme documents and related comments in connection with Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, the Republic of the Congo, Timor-Leste and Venezuela. The Board heard an oral briefing on the UNDP response to the humanitarian emergency created by cyclone Nargis.

VIII. United Nations Office for Project Services

58. The Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), presented a report on the governance structure of the organization; a status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors, 2004-2005; and the annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations. He noted that the Board of Auditors had issued the organization its first unqualified external audit opinion in six years, and that the organization had already implemented 23 of the audit recommendations, with the remaining recommendations due for implementation by the end of the year. He stated that pledges had been secured to cover the outstanding cost overruns associated with supporting the 2005 elections in Afghanistan. He described plans to undertake a post reclassification exercise to bring post levels into line with those of other United Nations organizations.

59. Delegations praised the progress achieved by the organization since its last report, noting in particular that the organization had received an unqualified external audit opinion from the Board of Auditors, the first such opinion it had received in six years. They applauded financial and operational improvements as well as management responsiveness to recommendations of the Board, and urged the organization to implement all outstanding recommendations. They expressed support for the proposed changes to the governance structure of the organization, asserting that the changes in structure and reporting lines would appropriately vest full responsibility and accountability for the performance of the organization in the Executive Director.

60. One delegation queried whether the proposed changes would require a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. UNOPS management responded that certain aspects of the proposals might require General Assembly endorsement.

61. After responding to the interventions of delegations, the Executive Director informed the Executive Board that the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services had requested a special task force to investigate suspected irregularities in one of the countries supported by the organization.

62. The Executive Board adopted decision 2008/33 on the status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005; decision 2008/34 on procurement activities of the United Nations system organizations; and decision 2008/35 on the governance structure of UNOPS.

IX. South-South Cooperation

63. The Director, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, presented the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation. He pointed out that it had been shaped by Executive Board recommendations to draw on past experiences and focus on measurable results. He noted that it called for a collaborative approach so as to emphasize responsiveness, empower partnerships, ensure results, and enforce transparency and accountability in serving the development needs of Member States. He added that the framework would provide policy and trend analysis on South-South cooperation across the United Nations development system, and leverage existing capacities to avoid duplication and optimize resources.

64. Delegations stressed the importance of South-South cooperation to development. They acknowledged its fundamental role in the evolving global aid architecture, and noted its prominence in the strategic plan, 2008-2011.

65. Many emphasized that South-South cooperation should complement, rather than supplant, North-South cooperation, and encouraged stakeholders to recognize its potential for capacity development and for coordinating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Some shared examples of South-South cooperation from their own countries, and encouraged Member States to prioritize South-South and triangular cooperation.

66. Delegations expressed support for the orientation and approach of the fourth cooperation framework and for the efforts of UNDP to establish South-South cooperation as a central pillar of the United Nations development agenda. Some noted in particular that the framework aimed to assist programme countries in maximizing the local impact of South-South cooperation. They reminded UNDP to take into account the recommendations of the most recent evaluation of its contributions to South-South cooperation.

67. Some delegations encouraged UNDP to expand the areas of focus to which South-South cooperation would be applied in its development interventions.

68. The Executive Board adopted decision 2008/36 on the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

X. Follow-up to UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting

69. The UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director, Bureau for Development Policy, and the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) made a joint presentation introducing the Report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP/2008/54-DP/FPA/2008/13).

70. Delegations appreciated the work of UNFPA and UNDP in coordinating and supporting the United Nations response to the AIDS pandemic through collaboration within UNAIDS. They applauded the establishment of the joint United Nations teams on AIDS and urged UNDP and UNFPA to support the teams at the country level to institute annual reviews of joint programmes to assess progress and impact. They pointed out that these annual reviews needed to feed into the national review processes and be quality assured by the UNAIDS secretariat and co-sponsors at regional and headquarters levels. Delegations noted that should the upcoming review of the Global Implementation Support Team (GIST) find duplication with

UNAIDS, the respective roles and responsibilities should be clarified and rationalized. UNFPA was commended for its able stewardship of GIST, especially for moving the team in a productive direction. Delegations asked about the progress in implementing the gender and AIDS pilots referred to in the report. They expressed strong support for UNFPA and UNDP to increase their efforts on HIV prevention among (a) men who had sex with men; and (b) sex workers.

71. Delegations stated that it was vital for the United Nations system to deliver on HIV and AIDS in close cooperation with the World Bank, under the national leadership of programme countries, as part of the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs). They inquired about the international division of labour with the Global Fund, particularly with regard to the financing and supply of technical support and health systems strengthening. Delegations supported UNFPA and UNDP efforts to better integrate gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Global Fund's guidelines for project proposals. Regarding the unified budget and work plan (UBW), delegations supported extension to a four-year time frame to reduce transaction costs and align with the strategic plans of UNDP and UNFPA. They recalled the United Nations Secretary-General's commitment at the recent AIDS conference in Mexico regarding the United Nations delivering as one on HIV and AIDS and ensuring that HIV and AIDS remained a system-wide priority.

72. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) thanked the delegations for their constructive comments and support. She noted that the organization would take on board the suggestion regarding having annual reviews feed into the national review processes. She stated that an update on progress in follow-up to the Global Task Team review would be provided at the Executive Board annual session in 2009. She assured the Board that the roles of GIST and UNAIDS were harmonized and synergistic. She noted that under the division of labour amongst agencies, UNFPA was the lead agency for sex work and HIV and worked through a rights-based approach. She observed that UNFPA had 120 HIV focal points working in the Fund's country offices. She underscored that UNFPA collaborated with a number of partners, including civil society. Concerning complex and sensitive issues, she added that UNFPA was conducting in-reach training on most-at-risk populations for United Nations staff.

73. The Chief, HIV/AIDS Branch, UNFPA, pointed out that regarding access to technical support GIST had developed a document entitled Principles of Technical Assistance that spelled out the roles, responsibilities and rights of those who provide and receive technical assistance. It also looked at the benefits of North-South and South-South collaboration. Regarding joint teams on HIV/AIDS, he noted that there was a review going on in Southern Africa and South-East Asia. Currently, five countries had been reviewed and in five others the review was under way. In addition, an external review of the UNFPA strategy to reinforce capacity of country and regional offices was being undertaken in collaboration with the UNAIDS secretariat with a view to ensuring programming as one. He added that all Member States would be able to access information on technical assistance on an individual country-level basis through the UNAIDS website. Currently, data were available on 10 countries and that would increase over the next several months.

74. UNDP senior managers described ongoing efforts to provide guidance on gender-based strategies, noting that more programme countries were requesting partnership support in strengthening capacities on gender. They noted that UNDP was close to finalizing agreements on pilot projects in Southern African, Latin American and Asian countries. They recalled that the UNAIDS family had the means to make programme acceleration funds available to programme countries to encourage catalytic action on gender activities. They acknowledged spousal transmission of HIV/AIDS as an area of renewed focus, and pledged to continue the joint effort to identify good practices.

75. The Executive Board took note of the report ((DP/2008/54-DP/FPA/2008/13).

XI. Internal audit and oversight

76. The UNDP Associate Administrator introduced the UNDP accountability system (accountability framework and oversight policy) (DP/2008/16/Rev.1). The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management) introduced the UNFPA oversight policy (DP/FPA/2008/14). The UNOPS Deputy Executive Director introduced the UNOPS accountability framework and oversight policies (DP/2008/55).

77. One delegation, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recognized the efforts of the organizations to improve accountability systems and encouraged a deepening of the efforts. Regarding the disclosure of internal audit reports (IARs) the Group stated that such disclosures should be the "extreme exception and not the norm". Noting that IARs were internal management tools, the Group stated that the Executive Board should be engaged in determining the validity of requests for disclosure and underscored the need for the Board and the concerned programme country to become fully involved in the decision for disclosure. The Group stated that a strong and strict policy must prevent politically motivated selections of IARs for disclosure and should respect confidentiality principles. The Group saw a need for options for the Board if confidentiality was breached. The Group stressed that development assistance should in no way be tied to political conditionality. The Group expressed the hopethat the Board would arrive at a consensus.

78. Numerous delegations appreciated the quality and comprehensiveness of the documents. It was stated that the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS documents were among the first accountability and oversight policies to be adopted by the United Nations funds and programmes and would set the standard for other organizations across the system. Delegations welcomed the harmonization efforts and regretted the minor differences. They expressed the hope that UNFPA and UNOPS would follow the UNDP proposal to annex the report of the Audit Advisory Committee (AAC) to their respective annual internal audit and oversight reports. They underlined the relevance of a confidentiality pledge and requested the three organizations to annex a common template of such a confidentiality pledge to their respective documents. Noting the large number of accountability-related reports submitted to the Executive Board, delegations called on the organizations to begin a reflection to rationalize, simplify and streamline the reports and their production schedule.

79. Delegations noted that the accountability systems would help the Executive Board provide management with strategic guidance while refraining from micro-management. They emphasized the need to avoid politicization of the process of disclosure and to ensure that disclosure of IARs did not endanger countries. The need for a time frame was underlined. One delegation called for improvements regarding defining confidentiality; clarifying the roles and responsibilities for accountability at the country level; and establishing indicators/results to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the policies. Some delegations urged an active dialogue and relationship between the AAC and the Executive Board. One delegation stated that the Board should have access to all IARs except those which could affect the due process rights of individuals. The delegation also urged independence for the UNDP Ethics Office and the AAC. Another delegation asked how the AAC could retain its independence if it was elected by the Executive Board and asked to report to the Board.

80. The UNDP Associate Administrator thanked delegations for their interventions and praised the ongoing consultative process. He acknowledged concerns expressed regarding definitions of accountability and oversight, the importance of maintaining open dialogue among Member States, and the need to handle confidential matters with due sensitivity. He spoke of ongoing efforts to harmonize UNDP policies with those of other United Nations organizations and expressed support for the proposal that the AAC should report directly to the Executive Board. He drew a distinction between consulting the Executive Board in appointing the Director of the Evaluation Office, which performs a role that directly impacts the effectiveness of Board oversight functions, and the process for appointing the Director of the independent

Office of Audit and Investigations. He invited delegates to reflect on the best indicators needed to regularly review the effectiveness of both offices.

81. The UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (External Relations, United Nations Affairs and Management) thanked the delegations for their supportive comments and guidance and for recognizing the diligent efforts of the three organizations. Regarding the query about accountability at the country level, she assured Executive Board members that UNFPA had all the necessary systems in place to ensure accountability, including policies, the internal control framework, business procedures and guidelines. Furthermore, accountability was ensured through internal and external audits, the balanced scorecard, office management plans and the performance appraisal and development system. She underscored that all the systems were being further strengthened under the decentralized structure that UNFPA was putting in place. She appreciated the Executive Board's request to simplify and streamline the reporting to the Board and stated that UNFPA would reflect and revert to the Board on the matter. She concluded by thanking UNFPA staff for the time and energy invested in preparing the policy document for the Board. She also thanked UNDP and UNOPS colleagues for their collaboration in harmonizing key concepts and definitions pertaining to accountability and oversight.

82. The Executive Board adopted decision 2008/37, Internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS).

83. Following the adoption of the decision a number of delegations took the floor noting that arriving at a consensus on the draft decision had been challenging. It was underscored that the greatest caution and discretion should be exercised in implementing the decision and disclosure of internal audit reports should not be politicized, nor should pressure regarding funding be applied to obtain disclosure. Delegations were pleased that agreement had been reached on internal audit and oversight and noted that it would help establish an accountable and transparent management system for UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS. One delegation asked that a process to avoid conflicts of interest in the appointment of key personnel in the three internal oversight offices be developed and shared with the Executive Board. Delegations thanked the facilitator (the delegate from Sweden) for his strong efforts in facilitating the decision.

XII. Other matters

UNDP

84. The President of the Executive Board chaired an informal consultation on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He invited statements by the Associate Administrator and by the Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP.

85. The Regional Director presented a proposed 'road map' for the possible resumption of UNDP activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He detailed a proposed five-step process to be completed by early 2009, including: first, dialogue with Member States on the best way forward; second, technical discussions with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on human resources, finance and programmatic issues, which would build on preliminary discussions on the recommendations emerging from the independent investigative review (the Nemeth report), as well as the report of the external Board of Auditors and relevant Board decisions; third, the dispatch of a technical team to Pyongyang, following Board endorsement of the road map, to reach agreement on the modalities and content of the UNDP programme; fourth, following the successful completion of detailed discussions, submission to the Board for approval of a package of measures and a country programme to facilitate resumption of UNDP activities; and fifth, subject to approval by the Board, mobilization and recruitment of staff and establishment of physical facilities to initiate programme activities.

86. Delegations expressed support for the resumption of UNDP activities as proposed. Some suggested that three extensive reviews had failed to confirm the initial allegations of wrongdoing, and one delegation asserted that the cessation of activities without the approval of the Executive Board had been inappropriate. While acknowledging that the reviews had revealed grounds for improvement in accountability and oversight throughout the organization, several delegations urged the Board to weigh the human development needs of the local population against the severity of those shortcomings. Most recognized the proposed road map as a viable means of moving from discussion to action, while others expressed support for further consultations on implementation of the 'road map'.

87. Delegations encouraged UNDP to heed the findings and recommendations that had emerged from the investigations. Many urged the Board to bring the matter to a prompt resolution.

88. One delegation put forth a list of procedural questions regarding the overall management of the process of suspending, discussing and possibly resuming activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

89. The President recommended that UNDP proceed with the agreed 'road map'. The Board approved the inclusion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the country programmes agenda item in the tentative work plan for the first regular session 2009.

Conclusion of the session

90. The Executive Board adopted the tentative work plan for the first regular session 2009.

91. In his concluding remarks, the President on behalf of the Executive Board noted with appreciation the decision of the Secretary-General to extend the tenure of the Executive Director of UNFPA by two years following consultations between the President and the Secretary-General.

United Nations DP/2009/2

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

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Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters

Decisions adopted by the Executive Board in 2008

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2008/1

UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009, including additional security measures for UNDP personnel and premises

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the functions, management results, indicators and resource requirements in the budget estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, as contained document DP/2008/3;

2. *Also takes note of* the finding of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that there is room for further improvement on presenting information on the link with specific programmes of work or activities, which should allow assessment of the cost effectiveness and degree of achievement of expected results;

3. *Approves* gross regular resources in the amount of $853.6 million, as presented in document DP/2008/3, subject to the provisions of the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Administrator to ensure that the biennial support budget is consistent with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, and its annexes, as augmented and amended in accordance with decision 2007/32 and in accordance with the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review, and to submit a report to the Executive Board at its second regular session, 2008;

5. *Takes note* of the concerns expressed by the ACABQ on the tendency for upward reclassification (DP/2008/5), and *requests* UNDP to exercise the utmost restraint in implementing its proposal for upward reclassifications, with clear justifications in line with International Civil Service Commission standards;

6. *Also requests* the Administrator to include in future budget submissions an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiencies achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report on the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial reporting;

7. *Decides* that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of resources, *urges* UNDP to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and *further urges* UNDP to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

8. *Recalls* the request to the Administrator, in decisions 2007/18 and 2007/33, to submit to the Executive Board, at its first regular session 2009, a report with proposals for realigning cost classification of activities funded from the programme financial framework and the biennial support budget, in the context of the preparation of the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, and in this regard *encourages* the Administrator to intensify consultations with other United Nations funds and programmes in order to harmonize, to the extent possible, the attribution of costs between the programme and support budgets;

9. *Requests* the Administrator to include in the report on cost classification, at the first regular session 2009, information on the concept and methodology determining the minimum base structure, as well as a description of that structure;

10. *Reaffirms* decision 2007/18 on UNDP cost recovery, and *requests* the Administrator to realign the funding modality of UNDP management activities to ensure that cost-recovery income bears the support cost associated with all 'other resources'-funded activities within the next biennium, in order to implement decisions 2003/22 and 2005/33;

11. *Requests* the Administrator, in close cooperation with other United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to harmonize the methodology of results-based budgeting and to improve targets and indicators, taking into account the views expressed by Member States;

12. *Also requests* information on steps and progress made with respect to the requests made in paragraphs 8, 9, 10 and 11, above, at the second regular session 2008;

13. *Approves* the maximum expenditure of $9 million from regular resources to cover the costs of introducing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the end of 2009;

14. *Requests* the Administrator to include information on support requirements related to all sources of funding in future biennial support budgets, in accordance with paragraph 12 of the ACABQ recommendations (DP/2008/5);

15. *Requests* the Administrator to present the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, for the approval of the Executive Board, at the second regular session 2009;

16. *Takes note of* the consolidated summary of UNDP funding requirements for security activities*;

17. In that regard, *approves* the net amount of $51.2 million as a separate requirement from regular resources to cover security measures mandated by the United Nations;

18. *Endorses* the proposal of the Administrator to grant him exceptional authority, during 2008-2009, to access up to an additional 20 per cent ($10.2 million) of the $51.2 million proposed net regular resources earmarked for security measures, mandated by the United Nations. UNDP will limit the use of those funds to new and emerging security mandates, as defined in the United Nations Department of Safety and Security directives, and will report to the Executive Board on the use of those funds in its annual review of the financial situation.

24 January 2008

2008/2
UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and resources mobilization framework

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the functions, management results, indicators and resource requirements in the budget estimates for the biennium 2008-2009, as contained in document DP/2008/4;

2 *Also takes note of* the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. *Approves* the gross appropriations in the amount of $23,044,000, as indicated in table 2 of the report, to be utilized for the purposes indicated in the report;

4. *Requests* UNIFEM to include in future budget submissions an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiency achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report against the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial reporting;

5. *Decides* that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of overall resources, *urges* UNIFEM to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and *further urges* UNIFEM to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

* As outlined in document DP/2008/CRP.2

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNIFEM, in close co-operation with the other United Nations Funds and Programmes, to continue to harmonize and improve the methodology of results-based budgeting, and *requests* a briefing on the steps taken and progress achieved on budget-related issues at the second regular session 2008, including issues related to indicators, targets and the cost classification of items in the results based budgets;

7. *Requests* the Administrator, UNDP, to present the 2010-2011 biennial support budget for Executive Board approval at the second regular session 2009;

8. *Welcomes* the UNIFEM response to decision 2007/35 requesting information relating to the resource mobilization framework, and *encourages* UNIFEM to expand its financial resource base by strengthening partnerships with all its stakeholders, and to diversify and deepen its donor base;

9. *Reiterates*, in this regard, that regular resources continue to be the bedrock of UNIFEM and are essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work, and *calls upon* donor countries, and all other countries in a position to do so, to increase their contributions to the regular resources of UNIFEM, including through multi-year pledges.

24 January 2008

2008/3
UNIFEM cost-recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Administrator on the cost recovery policy of the United Nations Development Fund for Women as contained in document DP/2008/11;

2. *Reiterates* the need for UNIFEM to continue monitoring efforts to ensure that functions linked to the management of other resources are adequately funded without undue subsidization by regular resources.

3. *Urges* UNIFEM to harmonize its cost recovery policy with United Nations organizations for multi-donor trust funds, joint programmes and joint offices, recognizing that the adoption of these principles by United Nations organizations constitutes a step towards increased transparency and comparability of cost recovery throughout the United Nations system;

4. *Notes* the proposal in the cost-recovery policy to retain flexibility, on a case-by-case basis, and *requests* UNIFEM to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2008, on the criteria and procedures for granting exceptions from the flat rate;

5. *Requests* the management of UNIFEM to report, at the annual session 2008, on the implementation of the cost-recovery policy, including details of fixed and variable indirect costs and the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, and to report on the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered;

24 January 2008

2008/4
UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy (DP/2008/12);

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in finalizing the details of the strategic partnership between UNDP and UNCDF, particularly with respect to: (a) integrating the UNCDF contribution into the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011; and (b) achieving the strategic and operational objectives of the partnership, as outlined in document DP/2007/11;

3. *Requests* UNDP and UNCDF to report to the Executive Board at the annual session 2009 on progress made in implementing their strategic partnership;

4. *Takes note of* the proposed UNCDF programming and funding arrangements, 2008-2011, and reiterates its call to donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries in order to enable UNCDF to implement its 2008-2011 Investment Plan;

5. *Decides* that the UNCDF cost-recovery policy will entail a recovery rate of 7 per cent for recovery of indirect support costs for new third party contributions and a basic 3 per cent recovery rate of indirect support costs for all new programme country contributions;

6. *Requests* the UNCDF management to report on the implementation of the cost-recovery policy, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, for consideration at the annual session 2008.

24 January 2008

2008/5
UNOPS biennial planning and budget framework

The Executive Board

1. Takes note of the biennial planning and budget framework of UNOPS (DP/2008/13), and of the strategic performance objectives, measures, targets, and associated resource requirements;

2. *Approves* the budget contained therein;

3. *Recalls* the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the matter of the interfund balance, and *requests* UNOPS and UNDP to finalize settlement as a matter of priority for the 2006-2007 closure,

4. *Also recalls* the shortfall issue mentioned in paragraph 13 of the ACABQ report dated 19 December 2007, and calls upon UNOPS and UNDP, in conjunction with relevant partners, to accelerate the resolution of this issue;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to continue efforts to harmonize its budget format with the biennial support budgets of other United Nations funds and programmes, while taking into consideration the specifics of UNOPS, and to contribute to improving the methodology of results-based budgeting, including targets and indicators;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to present the biennial support budget, 2010-2011, for the approval of the Executive Board, at the second regular session 2009.

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to submit its accountability framework and oversight policy for consideration and approval by the Executive Board at its annual session 2008.

24 January 2008

2008/6
Estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the functions, management outputs, indicators and resource requirements in the estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009, as contained in document DP/FPA/2008/1;

2. *Approves* gross resources in the amount of $259.8 million, representing the total biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and *notes* that after offsetting the indirect cost recovery amount of $24 million, the estimated net resources total $235.8 million;

3. *Decides* that the appropriated amount should be used to achieve the management outputs as specified in the 16 functions presented in document DP/FPA/2008/1;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to include, in future budget submissions, an annex on budget estimates by cost category for major objects of expenditure, with information on cost efficiencies achieved against targets and indicators therein, and to report on the estimates and efficiency targets in the annual financial review;

5. *Decides* that future biennial support budgets should, as much as possible, aim at progressive decrease as a proportion of overall resources, *urges* UNFPA to continue to exercise scrutiny of management costs so as to ensure an even higher allocation of funds for programmes, and *further urges* UNFPA to increase its efforts to bring greater efficiency to its operations;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA, in close cooperation with other United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to harmonize and improve the methodology of results-based budgeting, and requests a briefing, at the second regular session 2008, on steps taken and progress achieved on budget-related issues, including issues related to indicators, targets and cost classifications of items in the results-based budgets;

7. *Authorizes* additional funding expenditures of $6 million from regular resources to further implement the Enterprise Resource Planning (Atlas) project, including the implementation of international public sector accounting standards;

8. *Also authorizes* additional funding expenditures of $2.4 million from regular resources to replenish the security reserve;

9. *Further authorizes* that $28.4 million be used for the one-time costs of the new UNFPA organizational structure, and *urges* UNFPA to replenish its operational reserve to the mandated level by 2010, at the latest;

10. *Takes note of* the additional requirement of $5 million for funding the UNFPA security reserve;[1]

11. *Authorizes* a further expenditure of $5 million from regular resources to replenish the security reserve, in addition to the $2.4 million requested in the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2008-2009 (DP/FPA/2008/1);

12. *Endorses* the proposal of the Executive Director to grant her exceptional authority, during 2008-2009, to access up to an additional 20 per cent ($2.2 million) of the proposed security reserve expenditure requirement of $11.1 million. UNFPA will limit the use of those funds to new and emerging security mandates as defined by United Nations Department of Safety and Security directives, and will report on the use of the funds in the annual financial review to the Executive Board.

[1] As outlined in document DP/FPA/2008/CRP.1

13. *Recognizes* that the field operations of UNFPA have evolved since the adoption of decision 1995/35, and *decides* that UNFPA should continue to use the current International Civil Service Commission standards to classify or reclassify international staff positions, and *further requests* UNFPA to exercise restraint when considering the upward classification of staff positions;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to present the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2010-2011 for approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009.

24 January 2008

2008/7

(a) Joint report of UNDP and of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/5);

2. *Decides* to transmit the above-mentioned report to the Economic and Social Council, along with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session;

3. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to include in future reports a more qualitative assessment and analysis of results achieved, progress made and difficulties encountered, as well as lessons learned.

(b) Recommendation regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2211(XXI) of 17 December 1966, in response to which a trust fund, subsequently renamed the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was established by the Secretary-General in 1967,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, by which the Assembly placed UNFPA under its authority, as a subsidiary organ in accordance with article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, taking into account the separate identity of UNFPA,

1. *Notes* that no formal provision was made for the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA upon the cessation of the administrative role of the Administrator of UNDP with respect to UNFPA;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of harmonizing formal appointment procedures for the funds and programmes of the United Nations;

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly, accordingly, that the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA be regularized and that the Secretary-General of the United Nations appoint the Executive Director of UNFPA for a four-year term, beginning on 1 January, after consultation with the Executive Board.

24 January 2008

2008/8
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its first regular session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its first regular session 2008, it:

Item 1

Elected the following members of the Bureau for 2008:

President:	H.E. Mr. Jean-Marie Ehouzou (Benin)
Vice-President	Mr. Mahmudul Karim (Bangladesh)
Vice-President	Mr. Gustavo Endara (Ecuador)
Vice-President	H.E. Mr. Peter Burian (Slovakia)
Vice-President	Mr. Thomas Gass (Switzerland)

Adopted the agenda and work plan for its first regular session 2008 (DP/2008/L.1);
Adopted the report of the second regular session 2007 (DP/2008/1) and its corrigendum (DP/2008/1/Corr.1);
Adopted the annual work plan for 2008 (DP/2008/CRP.1);
Approved the tentative work plan for the annual session 2008;

Agreed to the following schedule for the remaining sessions of the Executive Board in 2008:

Annual session 2008:	16 to 27 June 2008
Second regular session 2008:	8 to 12 September 2008

UNDP segment

Item 2
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/1 on the UNDP biennial support budget, 2008-2009, including additional security measures for UNDP personnel and premises;

Adopted decision 2008/2 on the UNIFEM biennial support budget, 2008-2009, and resources mobilization framework;

Item 3
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programme documents:

Africa: Regional programme, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo;
Arab States: Kuwait and Somalia;
Asia and the Pacific: Regional programme, multi-country programmes for Fiji and Samoa, and Nepal;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional programme, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Nicaragua;

Item 4
Evaluation

Took note of the following reports:
Evaluation of results-based management in UNDP (DP/2008/6);
Management response to the evaluation of results-based management in UNDP (DP/2008/7);
Evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South cooperation (DP/2008/8);

Management response to the evaluation of the UNDP contribution to South-South cooperation (DP/2008/9);

Item 5
South-South cooperation

Approved the extension of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/2008/10);

Item 6
United Nations Development Fund for Women

Adopted decision 2008/3 on the UNIFEM cost-recovery policy;

Item 7
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2008/4 on the UNCDF partnership framework with UNDP, programming and funding arrangements, and cost-recovery policy;

Item 8
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2008/5 on the UNOPS biennial planning and budget framework;

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 9
Recommendations of the Board of Auditors

Took note of the UNDP report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005 (DP/2008/15);

Took note of the UNFPA report on follow-up to the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors for 2004-2005: status of implementation of recommendations (DP/FPA/2008/3);

Item 10
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted an oral decision on the reports on the UNDP accountability system and the UNFPA oversight policy, as follows: "Having considered the reports (DP/2008/16) and (DP/FPA/2008/4) and the efforts of UNDP and UNFPA to improve accountability and oversight, the Executive Board requests the administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to revert on this matter to the Executive Board at its second regular session 2008, after extensive consultations with the Executive Board to review these documents, taking into account the concerns of Member States".

Item 11
Report to the Economic and Social Council

Adopted decision 2008/7 on the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council and on the recommendation regarding the appointment of the Executive Director of UNFPA;

UNFPA segment

Item 12
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/6 on the estimates for the UNFPA biennial support budget, 2008-2009;

Item 13
Country programmes and related matters

Approved the following country programme documents:

Africa: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Togo;
Arab States, Europe and Central Asia: Somalia;
Asia and the Pacific: Nepal and the Pacific Island countries;
Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua;

Item 14
Programming arrangements

Took note of the report on TRAC-2 allocation, methodology and criteria for establishing fixed lines in the programming arrangements;

Joint meeting

Held a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP on 25 and 28 January 2008, which addressed the following topics: (a) progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals; (b) feedback from 'delivering as one'; and (c) disaster risk reduction strategies.

24 January 2008

2008/9
Report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2007, including the statistical and financial review

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the documents that make up the report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2007 (DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part I), DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part I, Add.1) and DP/2008/23/Add.1-DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part II));

2. *Also takes note* of the progress made in aligning UNFPA programming to the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, in response to the national priorities of programme countries;

3. *Recognizes* the significance of increasing contributions and achieving stability and predictability in contributions to UNFPA regular resources, which are the bedrock of UNFPA operations;

4. *Recognizes* that timeliness in the payment of contributions is essential to maintaining liquidity and to facilitating continuous programme implementation in assisting countries in achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Takes note of* progress with regard to results-based management and *urges* UNFPA to continue to improve results-based management indicators and baselines.

20 June 2008

2008/10
Funding commitments to UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on funding commitments to UNFPA (DP/FPA/2008/9), *welcomes* the substantial increase in the 2007 regular income level of UNFPA and the increase in the 2007 co-financing income, and *also welcomes* the contributions made by programme countries;

2. *Emphasizes* that regular resources are the bedrock of UNFPA and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work, and *encourages* UNFPA to further mobilize these resources while also continuing to mobilize supplementary resources for its thematic funds and programmes;

3. *Recognizes* that sustaining and improving the UNFPA funding level will require countries that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions during the period of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Encourages* all countries in a position to do so to make contributions early in the year and to make multi-year pledges;

5. *Emphasizes* that UNFPA needs strong political support and increased financial support, in particular increased and predictable core funding, in order to enhance its assistance to countries to enable them to fully integrate the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development into national development strategies and frameworks.

20 June 2008

2008/11
UNFPA and UNDP draft country programme documents

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2006/9 on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data;

2. *Commends* UNFPA for providing this information in connection with the review and approval process for the new country programme cycle;

3. *Takes note of* the highlights of UNDP country programme results and lessons learned, and *encourages* UNDP to continue to improve the quality of the content of this submission, including by using a format similar to the UNFPA country programme performance summary as well as appropriate evaluative information;

4. *Also recalls* its decision 2006/36 on the review of the country programme approval process and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to provide a short explanation of the reasons for the deferment of draft country programme documents from the annual session to the second regular session;

5. *Urges* UNFPA and UNDP to increase their efforts to present draft country programme documents for discussion at the annual session of the Executive Board, as per decision 2006/36.

25 June 2008

2008/12
Evaluation in UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the periodic report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2008/10);

2. *Welcomes* the steps taken and planned by UNFPA to strengthen evaluation at all levels of the organization by developing an evidence-informed methodology to improve programming and by systematically engaging national stakeholders;

3. *Notes* with concern the decline in the quality of evaluations and *requests* UNFPA to further improve the quality of its evaluations by, inter alia, enhancing the quality of programme design and outcome assessments, increasing the use of evaluation results to improve programming and analysing the UNFPA contribution to development results;

4. *Notes* the UNFPA concern about the low rate of reported follow-up to country programme evaluations, and *urges* UNFPA to improve follow-up to such evaluations;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit periodic reports on evaluation in relation to the outcomes of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, including lessons learned, impact on programmes, difficulties encountered and progress made, and the performance of the evaluation function;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit a report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on a comprehensive evaluation policy consistent with General Assembly resolution 62/208 and international best practices. In this regard, the Board *further requests* the Executive Director to keep the Board informed of the development of the evaluation policy, including through consultation with the Board at its first regular session 2009;

7. *Underlines* the importance of increasing the participation of national counterparts and strengthening national capacity in the evaluation and follow-up of UNFPA country programmes, *encourages* UNFPA to use national evaluation systems where available and to continue to incorporate capacity-building mechanisms into programme design and implementation, and *welcomes* progress attained in this regard;

8. *Notes* the endorsement in 2005 of the norms and standards for evaluation by the United Nations system through the United Nations Evaluation Group, constituting a contribution to strengthening evaluation as a United Nations system function;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of the independence and impartiality of the evaluation function within the United Nations system.

20 June 2008

2008/13
Internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of:* (a) the report on internal audit and investigations in UNDP (DP/2008/20); (b) the report on UNFPA internal audit and oversight activities in 2007 (DP/FPA/2008/11); and (c) the report of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on internal audit and oversight in 2007 (DP/2008/21);

2. *Welcomes* the focus on key and recurrent management issues, the clarity and format of the recommendations, and the risk-based audit planning in the internal audit reports;

3. *Recalls* decision 2006/19, and *requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to include in their respective audit and oversight reports: (a) a list of the key findings and the ratings, (b) a table displaying unresolved audit recommendations by year and category, and (c) an explanation of findings that have remained unresolved for 18 months or more;

4. *Calls upon* UNDP and UNFPA to further strengthen the national execution modality by addressing the operational risks and weaknesses identified in the audit reports, with

particular attention given to capacity-building, and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to inform the Executive Board of the implementation of the proposed actions;

5. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 62/208, which calls upon United Nations organizations to adopt measures that ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities, and to use, to the fullest extent possible, national execution and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in implementing operational activities by focusing on national structures and by avoiding, wherever possible, the practice of establishing parallel implementation units outside national and local institutions, and to continue to strengthen national execution, bearing in mind the importance of building national capacity and simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures, and in this regard *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to report to the Executive Board on actions and experiences in strengthening national execution;

6. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on progress made and lessons learned in implementing the harmonized approach to cash transfers, including in connection with the development of procedures, capacity-building and reporting mechanisms;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the harmonized and standardized use of audit ratings by UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations World Food Programme;

8. *Notes with concern* that the inter-fund balance and other outstanding issues between UNDP and UNOPS, referred to in decision 2007/27, have not yet been resolved, and *requests* UNDP and UNOPS to work with relevant partners to rapidly resolve these issues;

With regard to UNFPA,

9. *Notes with appreciation* the management response to the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2007, the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2007, and the updated status of the audit recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors on UNFPA accounts for the period ending 31 December 2005;

10. *Requests* that future annual reports on internal audit and oversight activities provide additional explanations of the significant audit results and their causes, identify the systemic issues of concern and provide more information on quality improvements in the oversight systems of UNFPA;

11. *Expresses* support for UNFPA implementation of the national execution modality in line with General Assembly resolution 62/208, and *encourages* strengthening national capacity in this regard;

12. *Expresses support* for the continued strengthening of the accountability and assurance process in UNFPA and the reorganization of its internal audit and oversight services, to sustain, inter alia, an adequate frequency and coverage of internal audits, and *urges* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen risk-based audit planning and to fill vacant posts in the Division for Oversight Services;

13. *Takes note* of efforts to implement the risk model in its regional and country offices and *encourages* UNFPA to further implement it at all management levels and across a broad range of risks;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the development of an enterprise risk management approach, and, in this regard, *calls upon* UNFPA to update the Executive Board on its progress at the annual session 2009;

15. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNFPA to improving its internal control framework, in line with internationally recognized best practices;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the internal control framework, in response to the findings of the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2007;

With regard to UNDP,

17. *Notes with appreciation* the management response to the report on internal audit and investigations in UNDP, the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2007, and the management response to that report;

18. *Expresses continuing support* for strengthening the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP, and *urges* the Administrator to further strengthen risk-based audit planning and to rapidly fill vacant posts in the Office of Audit and Investigations;

19. *Expresses concern* that 13 per cent of the ratings in the internal audit reports are 'unsatisfactory', that some audit findings have remained unresolved for 18 months, and that there are investigation findings on the misconduct of staff members, and *requests* UNDP to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on the progress made in these areas, as part of the annual report on internal audit and investigations;

20. *Notes* the efforts of UNDP senior management to strengthen programmatic accountability and enhance the internal capacity of the organization to address compliance issues regarding prescribed regulations, rules and procedures, and supervision by managers at country office and regional levels, and *encourages* UNDP to continue to include in future reports a review of progress in this regard;

21. *Notes* improvements in the timeliness and quality, as well as the overall outcome, of national execution audit reports;

22. *Notes* that specific audit procedures and guidelines are being developed in response to the use of the harmonized approach to cash transfers, and *calls upon* UNDP to develop such procedures and guidelines in coordination with other United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and in consultation with programme countries;

With regard to UNOPS,

23. *Notes with appreciation* the management response to the UNOPS report on internal audit and oversight in 2007;

24. *Welcomes* the establishment in 2007 of the Internal Audit Office in UNOPS and the transition from the UNDP Office of Audit and Performance Review to the UNOPS Internal Audit Office;

25. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Strategy and Audit Advisory Committee in UNOPS;

26. *Notes* the other initiatives in UNOPS that will strengthen audit and oversight, undertaken in response to the UNOPS report on internal audit and oversight;

27. *Notes* the submission by UNOPS of an accountability framework and oversight policy (DP/2008/22), and *requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to revert to the Executive Board with this policy at the second regular session 2008, ensuring coordination and harmonization with UNDP and UNFPA.

26 June 2008

2008/14
Annual report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) report on UNDP performance and results for 2007, (DP/2008/23), (DP/2008/23Corr.1) and the statistical annex (DP2008/23/Add.2);

2. *Notes with concern* that the report presents data which shows that poverty eradication practice area did not receive top priority in terms of the percentage of total spending during 2007, and *emphasizes* that appropriate activities should be used to support direct poverty reduction initiatives;

3. *Urges* UNDP to undertake relevant poverty reduction activities, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review and to give top priority to achieving Millennium Development Goals and reducing human poverty;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitment of UNDP to results-based management and programming;

5. *Requests* UNDP to continue to include, in future reports, analytical information about strategic results, including programme and project results, as well as explanations of significant deviations from expected results;

6. *Also requests* UNDP to include in future reports, starting at the annual session of 2009, a comprehensive comparative analysis of spending for United Nations system coordination and programming;

7. *Takes note* of the report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007, and *urges* UNDP to continue to pay particular attention to the recommendations relating to Human Resource management;

8. *Notes with concern* that 'earmarked' resources have continued to far exceed the regular resources of UNDP, and that this affects the ability of UNDP to fulfil its mandate adequately and to effectively support the development agenda of partner countries;

9. *Requests* UNDP to allocate sufficient levels of resources, both financial and staff, across the practice areas of the strategic plan, 2008-2011, with particular attention to least developed countries, in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to report in this regard at the annual session 2009;

10. *Urges* UNDP to give enhanced and appropriate priority to direct poverty reduction results while implementing the strategic plan, 2008-2011;

11. *Also requests* UNDP to submit a distribution of total expenditure by practice area and a distribution of regular resources expenditure by practice area at the annual session 2009 of the Executive Board;

12. *Further requests* UNDP to highlight, for each region, per capita programme expenditure and programme expenditure figures for the least developed countries in future reports.

27 June 2008

2008/15
Revised UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2007/32, particularly paragraphs 2 and 3;

2. *Takes note of* the revisions to the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, contained in document DP/2007/43/Rev.1 and its annexes.

26 June 2008

2008/16
Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward (DP/2008/24);

2. *Notes* that after exceeding the annual targets for 2004 and 2005, but missing the annual target for 2006, UNDP has been able to meet the fourth and overall (2007) annual funding target of its second multi-year funding framework (2004-2007);

3. *Underscores* the vital importance of maintaining the 2007 level of regular resources in 2008, so as to enable UNDP to meet the first annual funding target outlined in the integrated resources framework of the strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System, *reiterates* that regular resources form the bedrock of UNDP finances, and *requests* all countries that have not yet done so to provide contributions to regular resources for 2008;

5. *Recognizes* that strengthening the role and capacity of UNDP to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires a commensurate increase in its resources and an expansion of its resource base on a continuous, more predictable and assured basis, as well as continuing improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact;

6. *Stresses* the importance of a stable, predictable base of regular resources, and *encourages* Member States in a position to do so to announce pledges, on a multi-year basis, and payment schedules for the new planning cycle covering the period 2008-2011, and to adhere to such pledges and payment schedules thereafter.

26 June 2008

2008/17
Annual report on evaluation (UNDP)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report on evaluation (DP/2008/25);

2. *Commends* UNDP for securing a predictable resource base from the core budget to support its independent evaluation function, and *underscores* the importance of ensuring quality through evidence-based evaluations and the continued independence of the Evaluation Office and its relationship with the Executive Board;

3. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the Evaluation Unit in the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and its work in drafting a corporate evaluation strategy to support the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Urges* the relevant evaluation units to provide additional information and analysis on the evaluation functions and activities of UNCDF, UNIFEM and the United Nations Volunteers programme in future annual reports on evaluation;

5. *Requests* the Administrator to increase oversight to improve the quality and implementation of country office evaluation plans, including, inter alia, the systematic updating and monitoring of evaluation plans, and the strengthening of regional and country office capacity and responsibility in evaluation design and methodology, while paying particular attention to regions with lower levels of country evaluation to ensure that there is sufficient coverage of evaluation of UNDP programming;

6. *Also requests* the Administrator to strengthen regional and country office capacities in results-based management, project design, monitoring and reporting, based on corporate tools, the design of clear, comprehensive terms of reference for evaluations, and improving the availability of resources and funding for regional and country level evaluations, including outcome evaluations;

7. *Urges* UNDP to strengthen senior management supervision and support for monitoring and evaluation by UNDP programme units, including the tracking of their management responses in follow-up to evaluations;

8. *Encourages* UNDP to continue to improve its submission and tracking of management responses;

9. *Acknowledges* the growing demand for UNDP to support national evaluation capacity development, and *requests* UNDP to continue to support national partners in developing capacities so as to exercise their national ownership in evaluation;

10. *Urges* UNDP to continue to improve its use of evaluation to support learning and a culture of results, and *requests* UNDP to provide a report to the Board on its follow-up to management responses, including follow-up actions on decentralized evaluations, at the annual session 2009;

11. *Approves* the assessments of development results and the activities to strengthen the evaluation function from the proposed programme of work for the Evaluation Office for 2008-2009;

12. *Requests* additional consultation with the Board on the new independent evaluations to be conducted by the Evaluation Office proposed in paragraph 85(b) in the programme of work for approval at the second regular session 2008;

13. *Stresses* the importance of clear linkages of subsequent programmes of work with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, while taking into account the need to provide sufficient descriptions on proposed independent evaluations to be conducted by the Evaluation Office and to hold informal consultations with Board members prior to formal sessions of the Executive Board.

27 June 2008

2008/18
Evaluation of net contributor countries in the Arab region

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP in the net contributor countries of the Arab region (DP/2008/26), its corrigenda ((DP/2008/26/Corr.1 and DP/2008/26/Corr.2) and the management response to that evaluation (DP/2008/27);

2. *Requests* UNDP to include the Board in its consultations concerning the review and development of criteria for continued UNDP presence in a net contributor country;

3. *Urges* UNDP to give high priority to strengthening its support to net contributor countries in the area of capacity development, based on national priorities and systems, in order to strengthen the sustainability of its programming.

27 June 2008

2008/19
Evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

The Executive Board

1. *Having considered* the evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations Development Group to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (DP/2008/28) and the management response thereto (DP/2008/29);

2. *Encourages* UNDP, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations Development Group, to make increased use of national systems, when appropriate and to the benefit of programme countries, in order to strengthen national capacities and reduce transaction costs;

3. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 62/208, which encourages the strengthening of evaluation activities, with particular focus on development results, including through the promotion of collaborative approaches to evaluation, including joint evaluations; and in this regard *encourages* UNDP to continue to conduct joint evaluations with other United Nations organizations on development effectiveness while retaining a focus on the accountability of UNDP, in order to increase the value of evaluation to programme countries;

4. *Also encourages* UNDP, after consultation with other relevant United Nations organizations, to undertake further informal consultations with the Executive Board to determine the appropriate intergovernmental forum for the evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

26 June 2008

2008/20
Annual report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) (DP/2008/32);

2. *Welcomes* the progress of UNOPS towards improving effectiveness and efficiency in line with its business strategy;

3. *Takes note of* the contributions to the operational results of the United Nations;

4. *Also takes note of* the 2007 UNOPS business acquisition, which demonstrates growing confidence on the part of UNOPS partners.

5. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNOPS to submit to the Executive Board a report on the governance structure of UNOPS for discussion at the second regular session 2008.

26 June 2008

2008/21
Results-oriented annual report of the Executive Director (United Nations Capital Development Fund)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the results-oriented annual report (DP/2008/33) of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), including the section on the implementation of the UNCDF cost-recovery policy;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions that UNCDF has been able to make to development outcomes in the least developed countries in the area of local development and inclusive finance, while implementing its business plan, 2005-2007: Investing in the LDCs;

3. *Notes with concern* that UNCDF did not reach its 2007 resource mobilization targets, even though there has been an upward trend in UNCDF regular and other resources;

4. *Reiterates* its request that UNDP and UNCDF continue their efforts to secure stable programme funding for UNCDF activities, and *reiterates* its call to donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries;

5. *Requests* the UNCDF management to report on the implementation of the cost recovery policy, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, for consideration at the second regular session 2009;

6. *Requests* the Administrator to appoint, as soon as possible, a new Executive Secretary for UNCDF.

27 June 2008

2008/22
United Nations Volunteers – Report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers programme (DP/2008/34);

2. *Appreciates* the continued expansion of the scope and complexity of United Nations Volunteers programme activities and the progress made in operationalizing its business model and reporting on results and the related alignment of staff, resources and programming;

3. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken to develop new partnerships and enhance the substantive contributions made by the United Nations Volunteers programme to building capacities and promoting volunteerism in support of programme countries;

4. *Reiterates* its call on the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue efforts to integrate volunteerism into their policies, programmes and reports, including those relating to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Notes* that the United Nations Volunteers programme can effectively contribute, at the community level, to addressing environmental sustainability, including climate change, and *encourages* the United Nations Volunteers programme to engage in community-level natural resources management and climate mitigation and adaptation activities, upon request by programme countries.

6. *Notes, in that regard,* the catalytic role of resources from the Special Voluntary Fund in supporting pilot interventions and research to promote volunteerism for development;

7. *Also notes* that the contributions to the United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund reached $6.7 million in 2007, and *encourages* countries in position to do so to contribute to this fund to enable the United Nations Volunteers programme to further explore, expand and strengthen the role of volunteerism and volunteer contributions to development;

8. *Commends* the United Nations Volunteers programme for its results in gender parity at senior levels and among staff, as well as for its progress in programmatic gender mainstreaming;

9. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to increase their efforts towards achieving gender parity in the recruitment of United Nations Volunteers;

10. *Reaffirms* its support for the United Nations Volunteers programme as focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, in line with General assembly resolution 60/134, including leadership in reporting on follow-up.

26 June 2008

2008/23
United Nations Development Fund for Women –Annual report and cost recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) programme (DP/2008/35), and the response to decision 2008/3, which asked UNIFEM to report on the implementation of the cost recovery policy;

2. *Recognizes* the achievements towards the results identified in the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, *welcomes* the significant growth in UNIFEM resources, and *calls upon* all countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions, especially to UNIFEM regular ('core') resources, including through multi-year pledges;

3. *Requests* UNIFEM to avoid using core resources to cover costs related to the management of extrabudgetary resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/208;

4. *Decides* that, and consistent with similar approaches in other United Nations funds and programmes, a recovery rate of 7 per cent be adopted for recovery of indirect support costs for new third-party contributions and a rate of 5 per cent on programme country cost-sharing contributions;

5. *Recognizes* that these cost recovery rates may be further refined to reflect a full cost recovery rate following consideration of this item by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the cost recovery, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, and with possible options of rate variations, taking into account execution modalities and management expenses, for consideration at that second regular session 2009, in conjunction with the medium-term review of the strategic plan and the submission of the biennial support, 2011;

7. *Stresses* that other ('non-core') resources should continue to support the UNIFEM strategic plan priorities and results, and *encourages* UNIFEM to monitor its cost-recovery policy to ensure that regular resources do not subsidize the support costs for projects and programmes funded by other resources;

8. *Decides* to maintain the authority of the Executive Director of UNIFEM to grant waivers to the cost recovery rate through a case-by-case review, taking into account the financial impact on the organization, and *requests* that UNIFEM inform the Executive Board of all exceptions in the annual financial reporting;

9. *Urges* UNIFEM to continue harmonizing its cost classification and cost recovery policy with other United Nations funds and programmes.

27 June 2008

2008/24
UNDP engagement in direct budget support and pooled funds

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report contained in document DP/2008/36;

2. *Welcomes* aid effectiveness aimed at ensuring the highest development impact, *recognizes* that country ownership and capacity building and development are fundamental elements of aid effectiveness, and, in this regard, *stresses* the role of UNDP in supporting developing countries in these processes;

3. *Recalls* resolution 62/208, in which the General Assembly encourages the United Nations development system to be invited to participate, ex officio, in current and new aid modalities and coordination mechanisms, at the request of the programme country, and invites the United Nations development system to enhance its participation in this regard;

4. *Stresses* the importance of building national capacity, simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures and regulations, *welcomes* the efforts of UNDP to harmonize and align its activities in the context of the new aid environment, *encourages* UNDP to continue discussions on this approach within the United Nations Development Group, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, and to ensure adequate institutional staff training;

5. *Requests* UNDP to give preference to engagement in direct budget support, in the form of sector budget support, as a signatory, without fiduciary obligation, taking into account the views of programme countries;

6. *Endorses*, in principle, a four-year pilot period, starting in September 2008, for enabling UNDP financial contributions to pooled funding and sector budget support, on a case-by-case basis, upon the request of the recipient country and in accordance with the mandate and comparative advantage of UNDP, within the limitations and provisions provided in document DP/2008/36;

7. *Requests* UNDP to prepare an additional report for approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2008, including: (a) an update on the common approach among the United Nations Development Group towards the changing aid environment, (b) an analysis of the role of UNDP in the new aid environment, also in relation to other development partners, while emphasizing the further efforts of UNDP to achieve greater harmonization and alignment, and (c) a further elaboration of the criteria of engagement in sector budget support and pooled funding, and indicators to measure the effectiveness of this new aid modality;

8. *Urges* UNDP to sign the memorandum of understanding between the programme country and all participating development partners, which is the basis for the provision of sector budget support in that country;

9. *Approves*, for the duration of the pilot period, the proposed changes in the regulations and rules as contained in document DP/2008/36, including the requirements for direct financial contributions set out in box 1, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and *recognizes* that these rules and regulations may be further refined, if necessary, in the context of the harmonized regulations and rules currently under consideration in the United Nations;

10. *Requests* UNDP, during the pilot period, to include a progress report on the pilot in the annual report of the Administrator, and an overview of contributions to pooled funding and sector budget support in the annual review of the financial situation;

11. *Also requests* UNDP to prepare a report at the end of the pilot period, including: (a) an evaluation and an audit of the pilot on the basis of the criteria outlined in document DP/2008/36, and (b) an update on UNDP efforts towards the harmonization of regulations and rules under consideration in the United Nations, including the changes needed to allow participation in pooled funding and sector budget support;

12. *Further requests* UNDP to organize regular informal consultations with the Executive Board on progress with the pilot and the preparation of the reports requested in the present decision.

27 June 2008

2008/25
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2008, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2008 (DP/2008/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 2008 (DP/2008/18); and

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2008 and 2009:

Second regular session 2008:	8 to 12 September 2008
First regular session 2009:	19 to 22 January 2009
Annual session 2009:	26 May to 5 June 2009 (New York)
Second regular session 2009:	8 to 11 September 2009

Adopted the tentative work plan for the second regular session 2008 of the Executive Board.

UNFPA segment

Item 2
Annual report of the Executive Director

Adopted decision 2008/9 on the report of the Executive Director for 2007, including the statistical and financial review.

Took note of the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007 (DP/2008/23/Add.1-DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part II).

Item 3
Funding commitments to UNFPA

Adopted decision 2008/10 on funding commitments to UNFPA.

Item 4
Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2008/11 on UNFPA and UNDP draft country programme documents.

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Benin (DP/FPA/DCP/BEN/7)
Draft country programme document for the Republic of the Congo (DP/FPA/DCP/COG/4)
Draft country programme document for Niger (DP/FPA/DCP/NER/7)
Draft country programme document for Nigeria (DP/FPA/DCP/NGA/6)

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia
Draft country programme document for Sudan (DP/FPA/DCP/SDN/5)

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi (DP/FPA/2008/6) and the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan (DP/FPA/2008/8);

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan (DP/FPA/2008/8), Ecuador and Guatemala (DP/FPA/2008/7).

Item 5
Evaluation (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2008/12 on evaluation in UNFPA.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 6
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted decision 2008/13 on internal audit and oversight in UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Item 7
Field visits

Took note of the report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to Haiti (DP/FPA/2008/CRP.1-E/ICEF/2008/CRP.11) and of the report on the field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP and of UNFPA to Kazakhstan (DP/2008/CRP.3-DP/FPA/2008/CRP.2).

UNDP segment

Item 8
Annual report of the Administrator

Adopted decision 2008/14 on the annual report of the Administrator;

Took note of the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007 (DP/2008/23/Add.1 – DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part II).

Item 9
UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

Adopted decision 2008/15 on the revised UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Item 10
Funding commitments to UNDP

Adopted decision 2008/16 on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward.

Item 11
Evaluation in UNDP

Adopted decision 2008/17 on the annual report on evaluation;
Adopted decision 2008/18 on evaluation of net contributor countries in the Arab region;
Adopted decision 2008/19 on the evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Item 12
Human Development Report
Took note of the update on *Human Development Report* consultations (DP/2008/30).

Item 13
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Benin (DP/DCP/BEN/1)
Draft country programme document for Mauritius (DCP/DCP/MUS/2)
Draft country programme document for Nigeria (DP/DCP/NGA/1)

Arab States
Draft country programme document for Sudan (DP/DCP/SDN/1)

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Republic of Korea and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan (DP/2008/31).

Item 14
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2008/20 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Item 15
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2008/21 on the results-oriented annual report for 2007 of the Executive Director of the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Item 16
United Nations Volunteers

Adopted decision 2008/22 on United Nations Volunteers – Report of the Administrator.

Item 17
United Nations Development Fund for Women

Adopted decision 2008/23 on the UNIFEM annual report and cost-recovery policy.

Item 18
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2008/24 on UNDP engagement in direct budget support and pooled funds.

Item 19
South-South cooperation

Took note of the draft fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/CF/SSC/4).

Item 20
Other matters

Held a special event (panel discussion) on moving beyond commitments to deliver on Millennium Development Goal 5: the role of UNFPA and its partners;

Held a panel discussion on humanitarian response (UNFPA);

Held a briefing on the report of the external independent investigative review of UNDP operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

27 June 2008

2008/26
Revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA

The Executive Board,

Recognizing that the number and gravity of attacks and threats against United Nations personnel have increased substantially over the past several years, and

Acknowledging that United Nations organizations should be able to respond to such incidences in a timely and appropriate manner,

With regard to UNDP,

1. *Takes note of* the report on the revision of the financial regulations of UNDP (DP/2008/41) and the corresponding report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/2008/42);

2. *Decides* that financial regulation 23.01, contained in document DP/2008/41, should read as follows:

"(a) The Administrator may make such ex gratia payments, not exceeding $75,000 per year, as he or she deems necessary in the interest of UNDP. A statement of such payments should be included in the audited financial statements, except as set forth in paragraph (b) below:

(b) In the case of an emergency where, at the discretion of the Administrator, immediate ex gratia payments are necessary for humanitarian reasons (in instances such as injury or death suffered in connection with UNDP activities), the Administrator may make such payments in accordance with paragraph (a) above, except that such payments shall be without limitation as to the amount. The Administrator shall immediately inform the Executive Board when any single situation results in payments totalling in excess of $50,000."

3. *Takes note of* the corresponding change in financial rule 123.01.

With regard to UNFPA,

4. *Takes note of* the report on the revision of the financial regulations of UNFPA (DP/FPA/2008/15 and DP/FPA/2008/15/Corr.1) and the corresponding report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/FPA/2008/16);

5. *Notes* that UNFPA has disbursed $47,609 in ex gratia payments in 2008, and that this amount will be reflected in the UNFPA financial statements for the biennium 2008-2009;

6. *Recognizes* that the above payment exceeded the limit of $25,000 imposed under financial regulation 14.5 for ex gratia payments;

7. *Approves*, on an ex post facto basis, the amount paid in excess of the above limit, in view of humanitarian and moral considerations;

8. *Decides* that financial regulation 14.5, contained in document DP/FPA/2008/15, should read as follows:

"(a) The Executive Director may make such ex gratia payments, not exceeding $75,000 per year, as he or she deems necessary in the interest of UNFPA. A statement of such payments should be included in the audited financial statements, except as set forth in paragraph (b) below:

(b) In the case of an emergency where, at the discretion of the Executive Director, immediate ex gratia payments are necessary for humanitarian reasons (in instances such as injury or death suffered in connection with UNFPA activities), the Executive Director may make such payments in accordance with paragraph (a) above, except that such payments shall be without limitation as to the amount. The Executive Director shall immediately inform the Executive Board when any single situation results in payments totalling in excess of $50,000."

9. *Takes note of* the corresponding change in financial rule 114.9.

11 September 2008

2008/27
Annual review of the financial situation, 2007

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual review of the financial situation (DP/2008/39) and the detailed information contained in its addendum (DP/2008/39/Add.1);

2. *Encourages* all Member States to support UNDP in reaching the resource targets set out in the strategic plan and to commit, as early as possible, their contributions to UNDP regular resources for the years 2008 and onwards, through multi-year pledges if possible; and

3. *Recognizes* the importance of funding predictability in helping effective programme planning by UNDP.

12 September 2008

2008/28
Report on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2006-2007

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Administrator on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2006-2007 (DP/2008/43), recognizing that this will be the last report submitted on IAPSO based on the successful implementation of the partial merger of certain IAPSO functions with UNOPS on 1 January 2008;

2. *Notes* the implementation by UNDP and UNOPS teams the partial merger transition process, especially in relation to business transfer and human resources activities.

12 September 2008

2008/29
Role of UNDP in the changing aid environment at the country level

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2008/24;

2. *Takes note of* the report on the role of UNDP in the changing aid environment at the country level (DP/2008/53), and *approves* implementation of the pilot programme as set out below;

3. *Notes* the report as a follow-up to DP/2008/36 and as a response to the request of the Executive Board, in its decision 2008/24, for an additional report, and *requests* the Administrator to post on the Executive Board website further information as requested in decision 2008/24, paragraph 7, before releasing any funds to a pilot country, including greater detail in the criteria of engagement in sector budget support and pooled funding (which, per 2008/53, UNDP will issue as internal operational guidance to its country offices), and greater precision with respect to the indicators and benchmarks to be used to measure the effectiveness and results of the pilot programme and the potential for UNDP participation in this aid modality;

4. *Recalls* the importance of building national capacity, simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures and regulations, and considers ex officio participation of the United Nations development system in current and new aid modalities to be the most appropriate option in this regard;

5. *Encourages* UNDP to pursue this approach with the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office to ensure synergy and common approaches in the United Nations system response to the changing aid environment;

6. *Requests* UNDP to include, in its annual financial review of the situation, the status of expenditures of any such fund to which it contributes.

12 September 2008

2008/30
Evaluation of the role and contribution of UNDP in the environment and energy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the present evaluation of the role and contribution of UNDP in the environment and energy and of the management response thereto (DP/2008/47);

2. *Takes note of* the conclusions that: (a) environment and energy significantly contribute to the core UNDP mission of poverty reduction, and (b) the role of UNDP in environment and energy management within the United Nations system is potentially important, especially at the country level, taking into account the principal role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in this area, and emphasizing the cooperation with UNEP in this context and within the mandate of UNDP;

3. *Emphasizes* the need for UNDP to strengthen national capacity development in the environment and energy, keeping in mind the mission and capabilities of the organization, as well as the need to respond to the national sustainable development priorities of programme countries;

4. *Urges* UNDP to improve its responsiveness to the national priorities, especially in view of the specific needs of least developed countries and small island developing States;

5. *Requests* the Administrator to identify and implement institutional mechanisms and incentives, including cooperation and coordination withy other United Nations organizations, to

mainstream the environment and energy into all major practice areas, and to strengthen environment and energy capacities throughout the organization, including, and especially, in UNDP country offices.

6. *Requests* the Administrator to report orally to the Executive Board at its first regular session 2009 on the UNDP strategy on the environment and energy, based on the evaluation (DP/2008/46), and on the finalization of its memorandum of understanding with UNEP.

11 September 2008

2008/31
Programme of work of the Evaluation Office

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2008/17;

2. *Takes note of* the additional information on the programme of work of the Evaluation Office for 2008-2009 provided during the additional consultations and in document DP/2008/49;

3. *Approves* the independent evaluations contained in the programme of work of the Evaluation Office for 2008-2009 and in DP/2008/49, and *stresses* the importance of clear linkages of subsequent programmes of work with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

12 September 2008

2008/32
Evaluation of the third UNDP global cooperation framework
UNDP global programme, 2009-2011

The Executive Board

1. *Takes* note of the conclusions of the evaluation of the third global cooperation programme framework (DP/2008/44), and of the management response to this evaluation (DP/2008/45), and *requests* UNDP to continue to fully reflect them in the new fourth global framework (2009-2011) and in its implementation;

Having considered the UNDP global programme, 2009-2011 (DP/GP/2),

2. *Reaffirms* that all activities under the UNDP global programme 2009-2011 will be fully consistent with the provisions of General Assembly Resolution 62/208 of December 2007 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review; and the Revised 2008-2011 UNDP Strategic Plan (DP/2007/43/Rev.1 and Rev.2) as amended pursuant to Executive Board decision 2007/32 of October 2007, and as endorsed by Executive Board decision 2008/15;

3. *Recognizes* that support to capacity-building and development constitutes the overarching contribution of UNDP in assisting the efforts of programme countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and *underlines* that the emphasis of capacity-building includes institutional and human capacity-building in accordance with their national plans and strategies;

4. *Requests* the Administrator in the context of the proposals to be presented to the Executive Board in line with decision 2008/1 on realigning the cost classification of UNDP activities, to include proposals on the future classification of the organization's policy advisory capacities;

5. *Also requests* the Administrator to include, in his annual report to the annual sessions of the Executive Board, improvements and implementation of the global programme, 2009-2011,

notes that a midterm review of the global programme, 2009-2011, will be submitted to the annual session of the Executive Board 2010, and a final comprehensive report on performance and results submitted to the Executive Board at the annual session 2012.

6. *Decides* that this decision will serve as the preface to and be an integral part of the UNDP global programme, 2009-2011; and in that regard *approves* the UNDP global programme, 2009-2011, taking into account the guidance of this decision, as well as the comments of Member States.

12 September 2008

2008/33
Status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005 (UNOPS)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005 (DP/2008/50);

2. *Acknowledges* the progress made since the release of the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors on 29 June 2007.

12 September 2008

2008/34
Procurement activities of the United Nations system organizations

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual statistical report on the procurement activities of the United Nations system organizations (DP/2008/51);

2. *Welcomes* the data presentation and analysis contained in the report.

12 September 2008

2008/35
Governance structure of UNOPS

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the governance structure of the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/2008/52);

2. *Approves* the amended role and function of the Management Coordination Committee – to be renamed the Policy Advisory Committee – as outlined in the present report.

3. *Requests* UNOPS to submit for approval at the first regular session 2009, a comprehensively revised set of UNOPS financial regulations and rules, taking into account the changes in the governance structure of UNOPS as well as the specifics of the UNOPS business model;

4. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General delegate authority to the UNOPS Executive Director to administer United Nations staff rules and regulations in respect of UNOPS staff.

12 September 2008

2008/36
Fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/CF/SSC/4/Rev.1), and *requests* UNDP to take into account the recommendations made by Member States in its implementation;

2. *Welcomes* the results-oriented approach of the framework;

3. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to support UNDP and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in fully implementing the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation.

12 September 2008

2008/37
Internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)

The Executive Board,

1. *Recalls* its previous decisions concerning internal audit and oversight in UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS, including 2006/13, 2007/29, 2007/44, 2008/8 and 2008/13; and *recalls* General Assembly resolution 59/272;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to strengthen management, accountability, oversight and transparency in a harmonized and standardized way;

3. *Takes note of* the report on the UNDP accountability system (DP/2008/16/Rev.1) and *approves* the accountability framework and oversight policy contained therein, subject to the provisions of this decision;

4. *Also takes note of* the report on the UNFPA oversight policy (DP/FPA/2008/14) and *approves* the oversight policy contained therein, subject to the provisions of this decision;

5. *Further takes note of* the report on the UNOPS accountability and oversight policies (DP/2008/55) and *approves* the accountability framework and oversight policies set out therein, subject to the provisions of this decision;

6. *Reaffirms* the operational independence of all oversight mechanisms, including those related to audit, oversight and ethics;

7. *Underscores* the importance of Executive Board oversight and *recognizes* that nothing in the above-mentioned reports should restrict the authority of the Executive Board, as set out in its Rules of Procedure;

8. *Underlines* the importance of enhanced results-based management for the accountability of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to States members of the United Nations;

9. *Urges* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS, in appointing (a) members of their Audit Advisory Committees; (b) directors of their Ethics Offices; and (c) directors of the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations and the UNFPA Division for Oversight Services, and the Head of the UNOPS Internal Audit Office; while applying existing guidelines[2], to ensure the avoidance of conflicts of interest;

[2] United Nations system-wide application of ethics: separately administered organs and programmes (ST/SGB/2007/11);
UNDP: Charter of the Office of Audit and Investigations and terms of reference of the Audit Advisory Committee, 8 February 2008;
UNFPA: Charter of the Division for Oversight Services and terms of reference of the Audit Advisory Committee, 22 January 2007;
UNOPS: Internal Audit Charter (Organizational Directive number 25, 29 April 2008) and terms of reference of the Strategy and

10. *Decides* that the Ethics Office of UNDP should submit a report to the Executive Board at its annual session;

11. *Reaffirms* the prerogative of the Executive Board to approve country programmes, and *also reaffirms* the importance of continuity in supporting programme countries, and *underscores* the value of internal audit reports as management tools to improve the capacity of country offices;

12. *Decides*, after taking into consideration the views expressed by the members of the Executive Board, that the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS may disclose internal audit reports to Member States in accordance with the relevant provisions stipulated in documents DP/2008/16/Rev.1, DP/FPA/2008/14 and DP/2008/55, and in accordance with the provisions of this decision, exercising the greatest extent of discretion and protecting the legitimate rights of the programme country;

13. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to immediately inform the Executive Board and the concerned Government of the request for internal audit reports, prior to disclosure, with a copy of the request provided by the requesting party, and to provide the concerned Government with adequate time to view and comment on the report;

14. *Reaffirms* that information disclosed shall be kept confidential, and that written requests for access to internal audit reports should include the reason and purpose for the request and an affirmation to adhere to the procedures of disclosure, as stipulated in documents DP/2008/16/Rev.1, DP/FPA/2008/14 and DP/2008/55;

15. *Requests* UNFPA to provide the Executive Board with the annual report of the Audit Advisory Committee and the management response thereto, as annexes to the annual report on internal audit and oversight;

16. *Requests* UNOPS to provide the Executive Board with an annual report from the Strategy and Audit and Advisory Committees, and the management response thereto, as annexes to the annual report on internal audit and oversight;

17. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to orally report on the implementation of this decision at the second regular session 2009 of the Executive Board;

18. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Directors of UNFPA and UNOPS to submit, for consideration by the Executive Board, at its annual session 2010, a report on the implementation of this decision, including, inter alia, the number of requests for internal audit reports; the conclusions of reviews by the Audit Advisory Committees of the implementation of this decision, including audit information redacted or withheld from disclosure; and confirmation of adherence to the principle of confidentiality for audit information disclosed to members of the Executive Board.

19 September2008

2008/38
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA at its second regular session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its second regular session 2008, it:

Audit Advisory Committee.

Item 1
Organizational matters

Approved the agenda and work plan for the second regular session 2008 (DP/2008/L.3);

Approved the report of the annual session 2008 (DP/2008/37);

Agreed to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2009:

Election of the Bureau for 2009:	9 January 2009
First regular session 2009:	19 to 22 January 2009
Joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP:	23 and 26 January 2009 (tentative)
Annual session 2009:	26 May to 5 June 2009 (New York)
Second regular session 2009:	8 to 11 September 2009.

UNFPA segment

Item 7
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2008/26 on the revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA

Took note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/FPA/2008/16) on the revision of financial regulations (UNFPA).

Item 8
Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

Approved the following country programmes on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion, in accordance with decision 2006/36:

Africa: Benin, Republic of the Congo, Niger and Nigeria;

Arab States: Sudan;

Approved the third one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon;

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Angola (DP/FPA/DCP/AGO/6)
Draft country programme document for Côte d'Ivoire (DP/FPA/DCP/CIV/6)
Draft country programme document for Kenya (DP/FPA/DCP/KEN/7)
Draft country programme document for Mauritania (DP/FPA/DCP/MRT/6)

Asia and the Pacific
Draft country programme document for Timor-Leste (DP/FPA/DCP/TLS/2)

Latin America and the Caribbean
Draft country programme document for Haiti (DP/FPA/DCP/HTI/4)
Draft country programme document for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (DP/FPA/DCP/VEN/2)

UNDP segment

Item 2
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

Adopted decision 2008/26 on revision of the financial regulations of UNDP and UNFPA;

Adopted decision 2008/27 on the annual review of the financial situation, 2007 (UNDP);

Adopted decision 2008/28 on the activities of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office for the biennium 2006-2007;

Adopted decision 2008/29 on the role of UNDP in the changing aid environment at the country level;

Took note of the report on the information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures 2007 (DP/2008/40) and its addendum (DP/2008/40/Add.1).

Item 3
Evaluation in UNDP

Adopted decision 2008/30 on the role and contribution of UNDP in the environment and energy;

Adopted decision 2008/31 on the programme of work of the Evaluation Office.

Item 4
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2008/32 on the evaluation of the third global cooperation framework and of the fourth global programme, 2009-2011;

Approved the following country programmes on a no-objection basis, without presentation or discussion, in accordance with decision 2006/36:

Africa: Benin, Mauritius, Nigeria;

Arab States: Sudan;

Approved a second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi and the third one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon;

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Angola (DP/DCP/AGO/2)
Draft country programme document for Côte d'Ivoire (DP/DCP/CIV/1)
Draft country programme document for Kenya (DP/DCP/KEN/1)
Draft country programme document for Mauritania (DP/DCP/MRT/1)
Draft country programme document for Niger (DP/DCP/NER/1)
Draft country programme document for the Republic of the Congo (DP/DCP/COG/1)

Asia and the Pacific
Draft country programme document for Timor-Leste (DP/DCP/TLS/1)

Latin America and the Caribbean
Draft country programme document for Haiti (DP/DCP/HTI/1)

Draft country programme document for Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (DP/DCP/VEN/1)

Organized an oral briefing on the UNDP response to the humanitarian emergency created by cyclone Nargis.

Item 5
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS))

Adopted decision 2008/33 on the status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors for the biennium 2004-2005;

Adopted decision 2008/34 on procurement activities of the United Nations system organizations;

Adopted decision 2008/35 on the governance structure of UNOPS.

Item 6
South-South cooperation

Adopted decision 2008/36 on the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 9
Follow-up to the meeting of the Programming Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Took note of the report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Programming Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (DP/2008/54-DP/FPA/2008/13).

Item 10
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted decision 2008/37 on internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS).

Item 15
Other matters

Held the following informal briefings and consultations:

UNDP

Held informal consultations on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

19 September 2008

TENTATIVE WORK PLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA
FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2009
(19 to 22 January 2009, New York)

Day/Date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Monday, 19 January	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS o Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session o Adoption of the report on the second regular session 2008 o Adoption of the annual work plan 2009 of the Executive Board **UNDP SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR
		2	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS 1. Report on cost classification (decision 2008/1)
	3 – 5 p.m.	2	FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)
		3	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS 2. Approval of country programme documents
	5 - 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Tuesday, 20 January	10 a.m.- 1 p.m.		**UNFPA SEGMENT** STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
	3 - 5 p.m.		STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (cont'd)
		6	COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS 3. Approval of country programme documents
	5 - 6 p.m.		*Oral briefing on development of UNFPA Evaluation Policy*
Wednesday, 21 January	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		**UNDP SEGMENT (cont'd)**
		7	UNOPS
			JOINT UNDP/UNFPA SEGMENT
		4	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS o Reports of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2006-2007
	3 – 5 p.m.		**JOINT UNDP/UNFPA SEGMENT**
		5	REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL o Joint report of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Thursday, 22 January	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	8	OTHER MATTERS o Adoption of pending decisions
		1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS o Adoption of the tentative work plan for the annual session 2009
	3 – 6 p.m.		
Friday, 23 January Monday, 26 January			JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF AND WFP (dates to be agreed by UNICEF and WFP)